GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:117
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
MISUSE OF FUNDS MEANT FOR CLEANING OF LAKES
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;BIR SING MAHATO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that beauty of lakes in the country is vanishing due to non-cleaning of lakes particularly those close to tourist places, and increasing poaching of the birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) whether the amount allocated by the Government for cleaning the lakes is being spent on paper only;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for proper utilization of the funds earmarked for the purpose;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce intensive campaign for cleanliness of lakes, ponds and rivers near tourist spots; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Parts(a) to (f) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.117 to be answered on 22.7. 2002 on Misuse of Funds Meant for Cleaning of Lakes

(a) to (f) The lakes, specially those near the tourist places, have become polluted to varying degrees due to siltation, encroachments and discharge of domestic and industrial effluents. This has resulted in eutrophication, weed infestation, decrease in biological diversity particularly endemic and endangered species, decrease in migratory bird population and fish productivity.

In 1994 the Government in 1994 had formulated the National Lake Conservation Plan(NLCP) under which 10 urban polluted lakes were identified for conservation. The lakes identified under NLCP are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of lake	State
1.	Dal	Jammu & Kashmir
2.	Sukhna	Chandigarh
3.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Nainital	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Kodai Kanal	Tamil Nadu
6.	Ooty	Tamil Nadu
7	Udaipur	Rajasthan
8.	Rabindra Sarovar	West Bengal
9.	Powai	Maharashtra
10.	Hussain Sagar	Andhra Pradesh

In addition to these, other polluted lakes proposed by different state governments for conservation are 4 lakes in Bangalore, namely, Vengaiahkere, Kamakshipalya, Jaraganahalli & Nagavara. Besides these, the proposal for Mansagar (Jaipur), Banjara(Hyderabad), Kurukshetra Teerath (Haryana), Bhishma(Gadag,Karnataka) and Kotekere (Belgaun,Karnataka) have been received. The National Lake Conservation Plan was approved only in principle in 1997. However, only limited funds were available under the scheme during IX Plan. Conservation Plansof 3 lakes namely, Powai, Ooty and Kodaikanal out of the 10 identified polluted lakes were approved in June,2001. The conservation Plan of 4 lakes of Bangalore was approved in February,2002. Necessary steps for implementation of these projects are being taken by the concerned state governments.

The outlay for National Lake Conservation Plan during the X Plan and the current Annual Plan are Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 30 crore respectively. The status with regard to the projects sanctioned and funds released under National Lake Conservation Plan is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Lake	Funds approved(Rs. Crore)	Funds released (Rs. Crore)
1.	Powai Lake	6.62	4.00
2.	Ooty Lake	1.95	1.00
3.	Kodaikanal	6.33	2.00
4.	Bangalore Lakes	12.32	2.79

Proposals for conservation of the other polluted lakes will be taken up on the basis of their pollution status and availability of funds in the plan.

The Government has also constituted a National Committee on Wetlands which has inventorised 2167 natural fresh water wetlands. The Government of India is giving 100% assistance for 20 identified areas under National WetlandConservation Programme for activities like protection, catchment area treatment, pollution control, siltation control, biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource utilization, fisheries development, public awareness and participation, monitoring, evaluation and research.

Public awareness and public participation are included under the conservation plans for lakes and rivers.